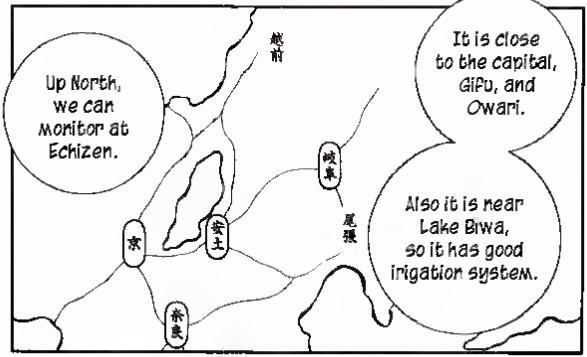
MAGOICHI SAIKA

NOBUNAGA'S STORM WAS UNSTOPPABLE.
IN 1567 (YEAR 10 EIROKU)
HE CONQUERED NEIGBORING STATE MINO
AND TOOK OVER INABAYAMA FORT (GIFU FORT).
IN ELEVEN YEARS,
HE DEFEATED SIX CLANS
AND SERVE UNDER YOSHIAKI ASHIKAGA.
AFTER YOSHIAKI BECAME GENERAL,
HIS GUARD NOBUNAGA STOOD
CLOSE TO HIS AMBITION OF UNITED NATION.

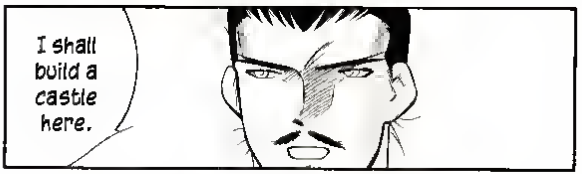
※現在の常楽寺村で今は寺なとない。

*Hiroshi ta Tokichiro (later known as Hideyoshi Toyotomi)

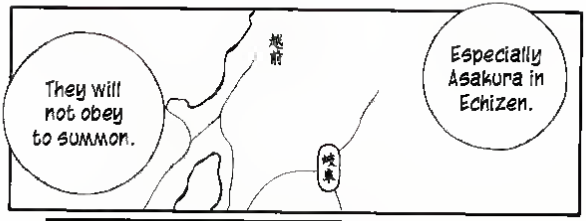

Up North, we can monitor at Echizen.
It is close to the capital, Gifu, and Owari.
Also it is near Lake Biwa, so it has good irrigation system.
越前
岐阜
尾張
京
安土
奈良

That being said, It is only this Tokichiro's opinion.
For My Lord to use this place as a place to stay during your travel is the perfect choice.

I appre-ciate your honesty.
I only realized this for the first time after my lord inquired about it.


I shall build a castle here.

I shall build a castle like no one has ever seen.
Over there at Mt. Azuchi as you can see.
Unfortunately, no.
Is that the reason why we are here?
That castle is for another time.
Oh ....
Uesugi is on North. But his conquest across the nation for unification is not complete.
After Yoshiaki became Shogun, there are Mori on West and Takeda on East protecting him.

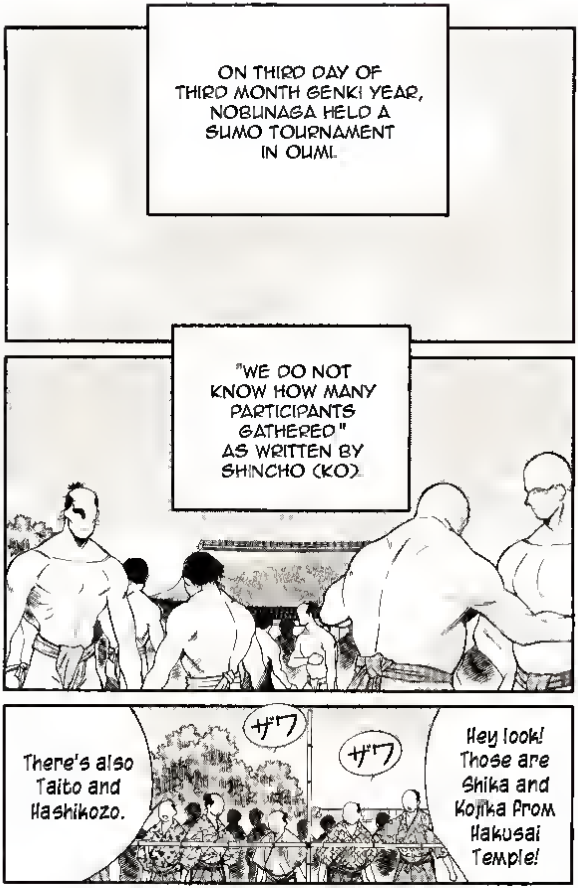


THAT YEAR NOBUNAGA'S CONQUEST HAD REACHED TWENTY ONE VARIOUS LORDS AND GENERALS THEY HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO THE CAPITAL TO SERVE UNDER THE BAKUFU BUT YOSHIKAGE ASAKURA OF ECHIZEN DID NOT FOLLOW THAT ORDER

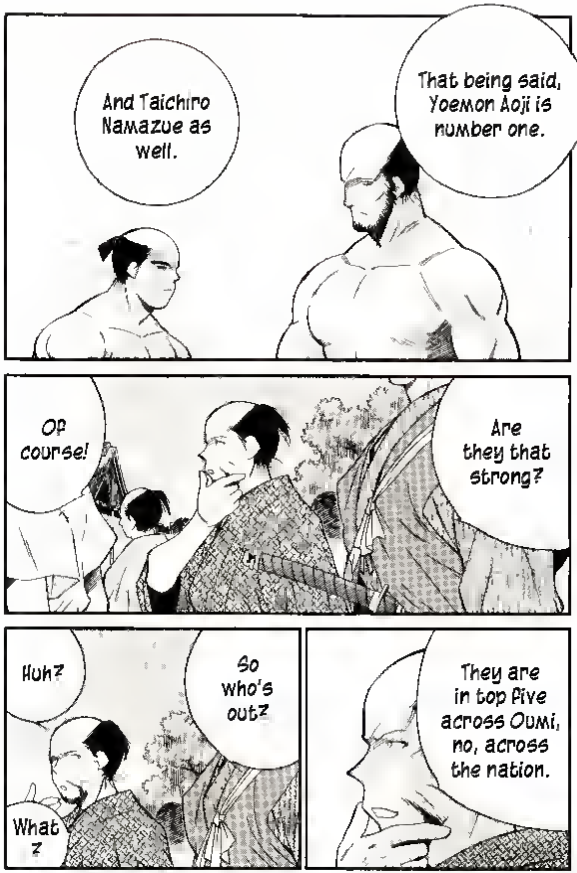
That is the problem.
Huh?
Monkey, is something recently troubling you?
I am already troubled by various things everyday.
I am not.
I figure.
Ever since Okehazama, My Lord has never been troubled. Whatever occurs, you always solve it on your own.

I want you to prepare a grand sumo tournament.
Enough. Then Tokichiro,
What?
Well, I have known about My Lord's liking to Sumo.
However,
There is someone I cannot meet unless I am in one.
What is it have to do with your "trouble"?
Yes. Do you think he will come if we hold a grand sumo tournament?
Who knows?

Do not worry.
But I do not think he will come if it is a small entertainment.
Yes.
To kill time before I attack Asakura.
Yes, an entertainment.


ON THIRD DAY OF THIRD MONTH GENKI YEAR, NOBUNAGA HELD A SUMO TOURNAMENT IN OUMI.
"WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS GATHERED" AS WRITTEN BY SHINCHO (KO).
There's also Taito and Hashikozo.
ザワ
ザワ
Hey look! Those are Shika and Kojika from Hakusai Temple!

*Shika, Kojika, Taito, Hashikozo are written in Shincho's records as sumo wrestler of that time.

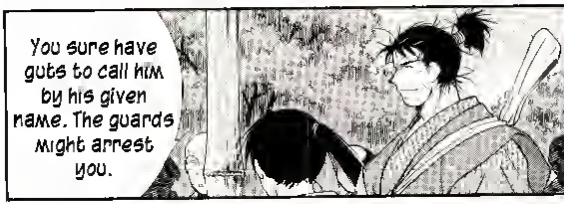

That being said, Yoemon Aoji is number one.
And Taichiro Namazue as well.
Are they that strong?
Of course!
They are in top five across Oumi, no, across the nation.
So who's out?
Huh?
What?

*Aoji and Namazue are also in Shincho record

You said there are six contenders. Then one is not on the big five.
So huge!
It's Kojika from Hakusei Temple.
Oh, so it's Kojika?
And who will win?
Won't that be you?

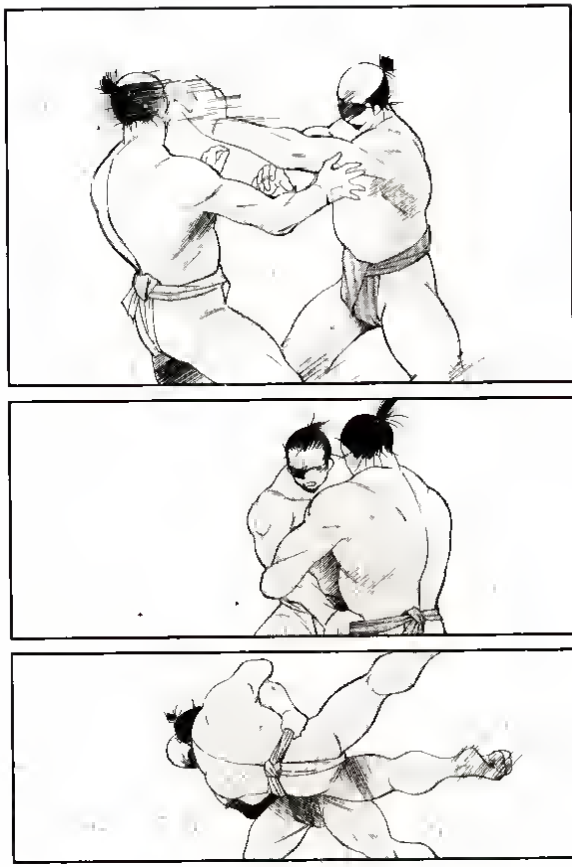
Me, eh?
Too bad, really. You have the build to might actually win.
Unfortunately, I won't participate.

I am only here as spectator.
Is that so? Still, I'm not participating.
No.
Spectating Sumo, I assume?



*During Warring States era it was a custom to carry the sword to the left.

Begin!
Yes!
OHHH!



He's strong.
Oh, Shika won!
Taito won!
Hashikozo too.

His opponent was Matajiro Fukao.
Aw, Kojika lost.
You're young but you have great eyes.
I see. From those six, he's the first one out.
It might.
My prediction might've come true, you know.
That's why you should've participated.

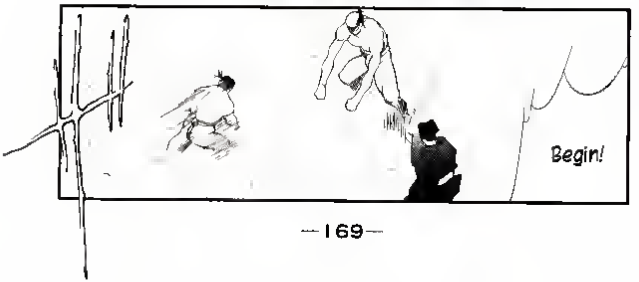
*Fukao: his name is also written on the record.

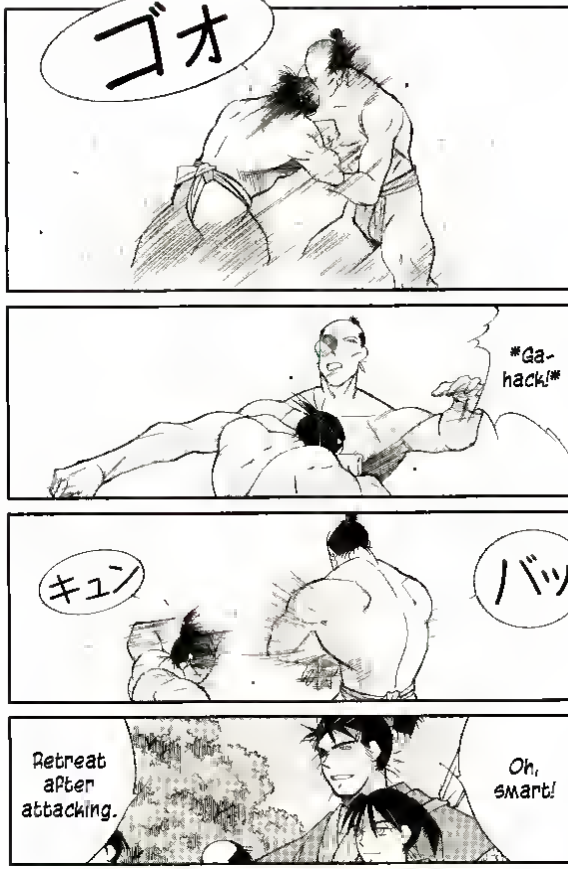
Let's see...
So? Who will win if I'm not in the roster?
Aoji and
Namazue. One of those two.

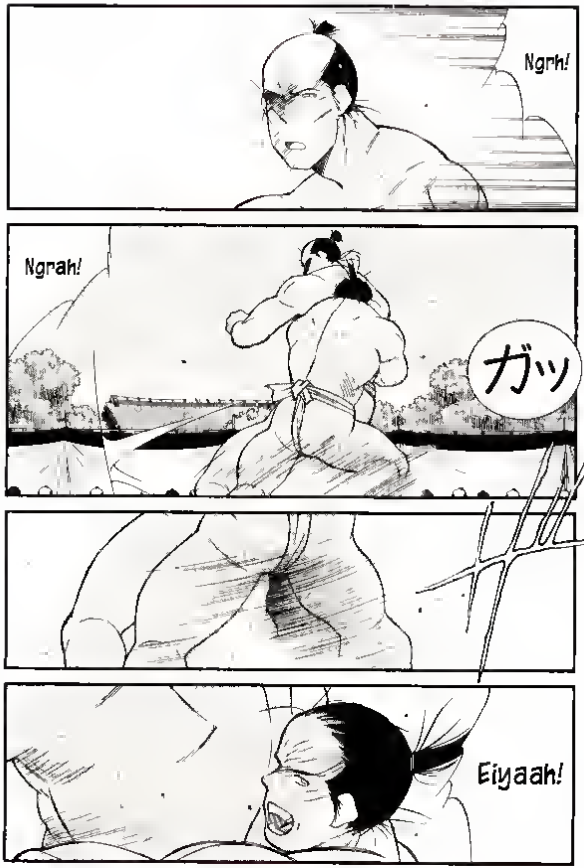
Otherwise it's Namazue.
Aoji if not close quarter.
Oh, are they strong?
I see.
OHH!
ドオ

I don't know him but he's strong.
Shika lost as well. Two from Hakusei Temple were defeated by Fukao.

Who will win?
This round is Taito vs. Hashikozo.


Begin!


ゴオ
Ga-hack!
キュン
バッ
Retreat after attacking.
Oh, smart!


Ngrh!
Ngrah!
ガッ
Eiyaah!

ドオ
He managed to do a suplex on such a huge body.
Hashikozo won!
Aoji and Hashikozo.
The ones left are Fukao, Namazue,
くい

チラ
Proceed!
Yes!

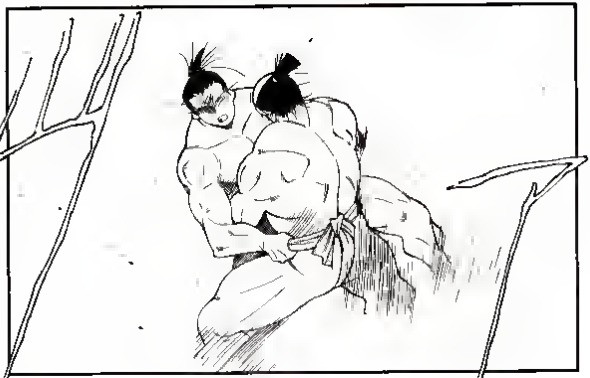
ザ
ザワ
Fukao vs.
Namazue.

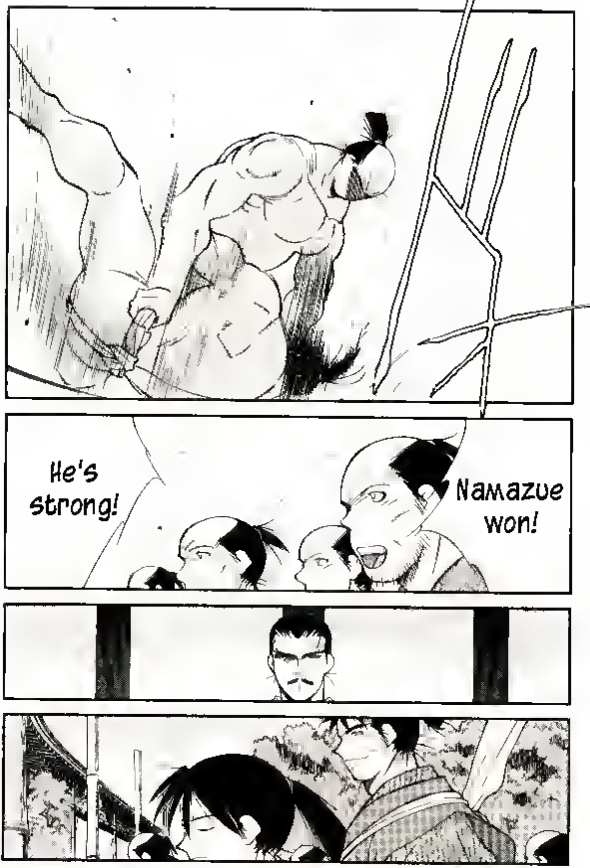
Begin!
天下
ゴオ
ギッ
They grabed!

ミキッ
Their muscles are bulging!
Oh! This is a battle of strength!

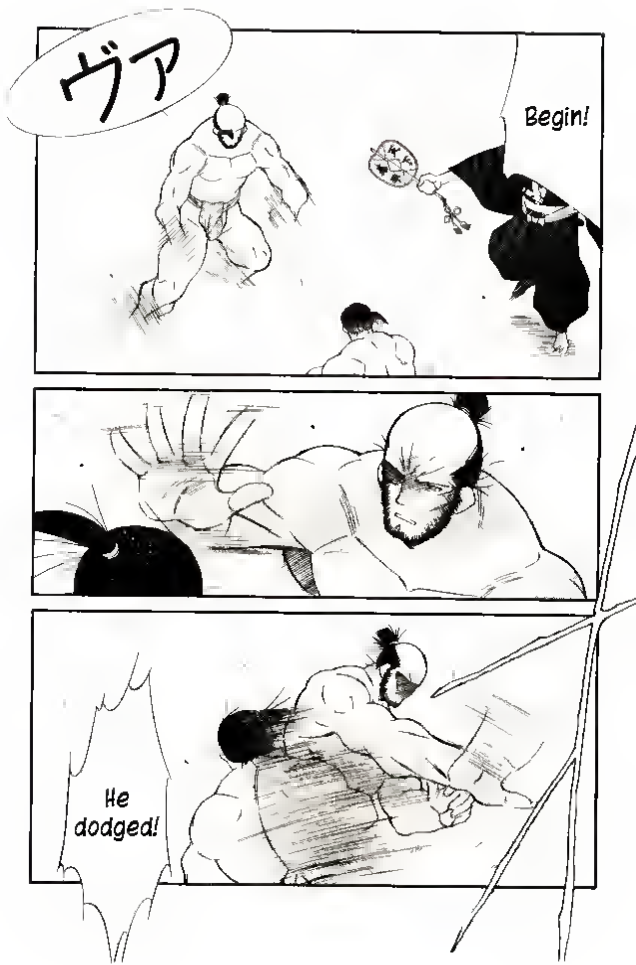
Ngaah!

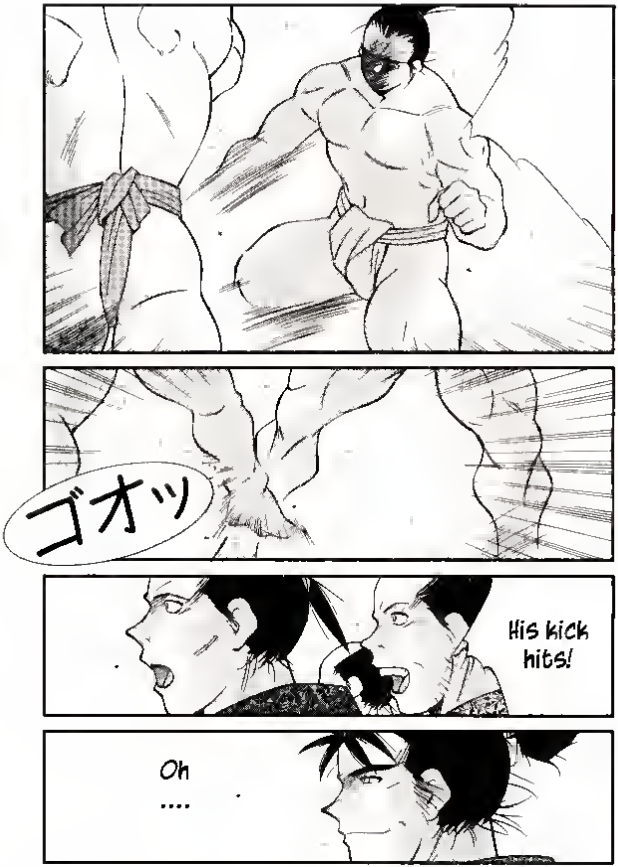
Hngh!



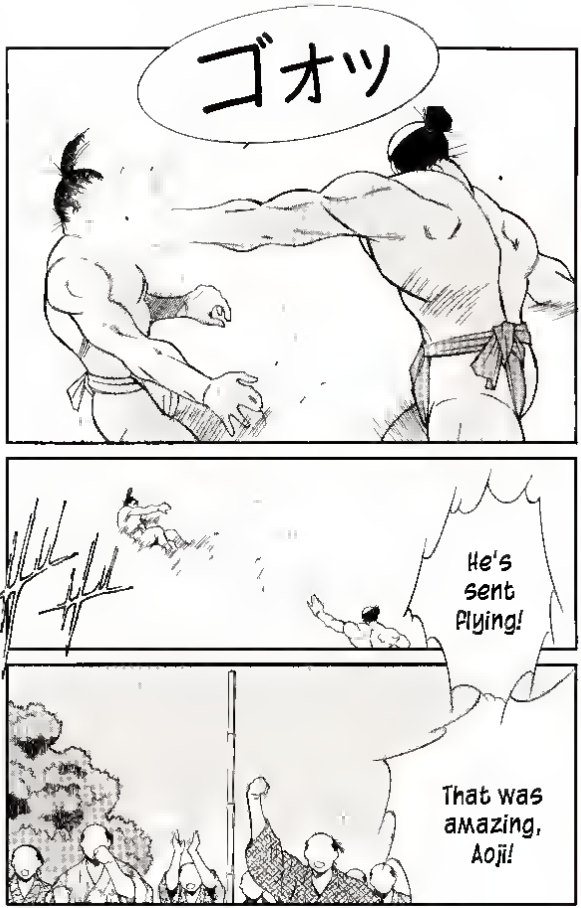

He's strong!
Namazue won!

This is also a must see.
Aoji vs. Hashikozo.

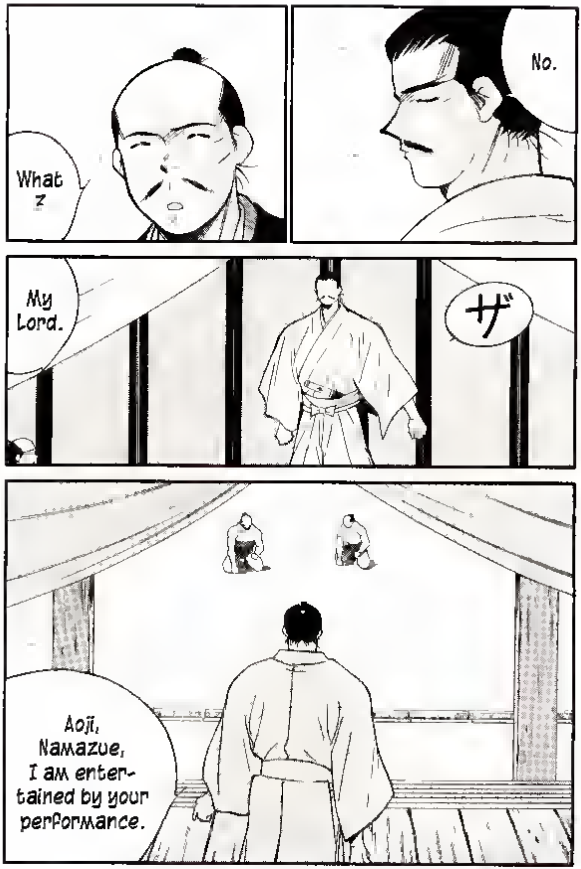

ヴア
Begin!
He dodged!


ゴオッ
His kick hits!
Oh
....

ギ
What ?!
W-what? He doesn't budge.
Nghg!
Kuh!


ゴオッ
He's sent flying!
That was amazing, Aoji!

Amazing. It went exactly as you said it would.
My Lord. We have two contestants left.
カタ
Moreover, they are the strongest of them all.
So, what shall we do?
Shall we decide which is the strongest of them both?


What
z
No.
My
Lord.
ザ
Aoji,
Namazue,
I am enter-
tained by your
performance.

We are happy to receive your compliment.
Yes!
Now.
Who wants to have a match with these two warriors?
Is there anyone in here
ザワ

Those two are too strong.
Like anyone wants to fight them after seeing that.
You heard him. Wanna have a go?
Myself aside,
what about you?
Me?

With that age and build of yours, no matter how good your eyes are, it is impossible.
No, just kidding.
クス
What?
OHHH!
But that's....
Does he have a death wish?
Someone came out.

What?
Please do not joke in presents of Our Lord.

I take full account.
Isn't he just a kid?
Since when...

did he... not.
You have the same faces.
Hey, what's this?
I see.
If we are together, people will look at us like that. So we come at different time in crowded places.
Moreover, he seems like a funny fellow.
You're twins.

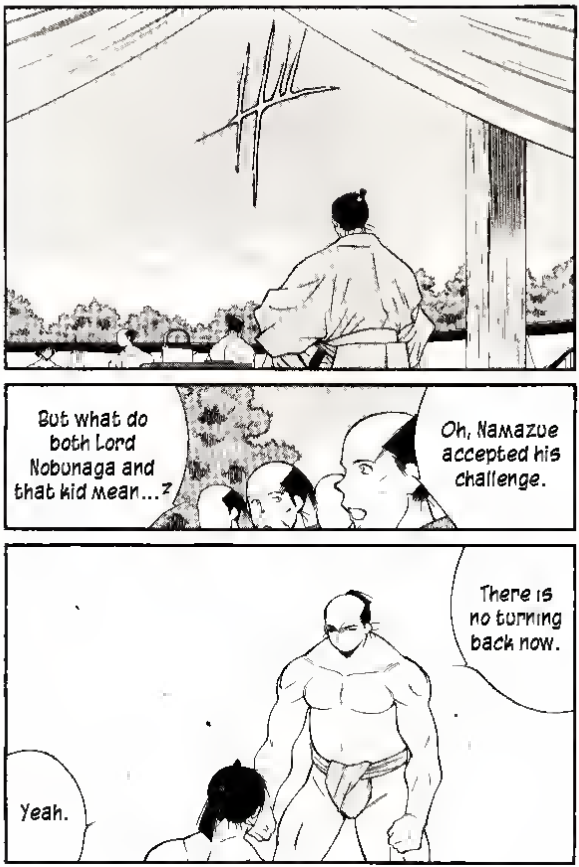
It won't make a difference.
However, is it okay? He's fighting two people, you know?
What I can do, he can do as well.
Because we're twins.
Is that so?

Lord Nobunaga.
Fine. Let the match begin.
But what do I get?
I'm fine with the match.

How about rice balls?
ニイ
Let's do it then.
バッ
Are you serious?
What?

If any of you two win, I will appoint the two of you as Samurai General.
I am serious.
So it's fine if you kill him.
Hey!
Now, Even as a demon child, it might be too young for you. But if you really are a Mutsu.

ザワ
Then I'll go first.


But what do both Lord Nobunaga and that kid mean...?
Oh, Namazue accepted his challenge.
There is no turning back now.
Yeah.

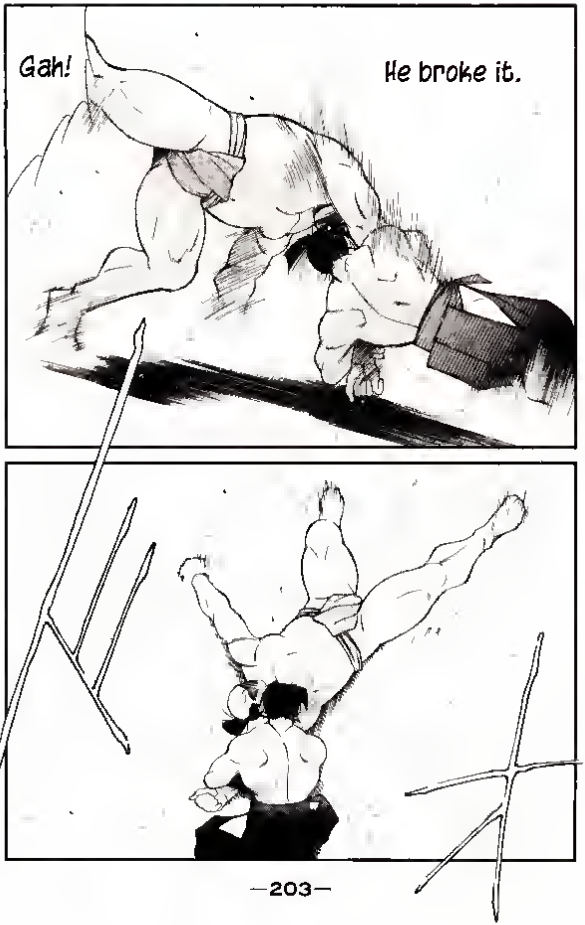
There's no helping it.
This guy ....
ヴァ
Begin!

ゴオ

Namazue is serious!
He's sent flying!
ザ
ガシッ

What?
He threw him!

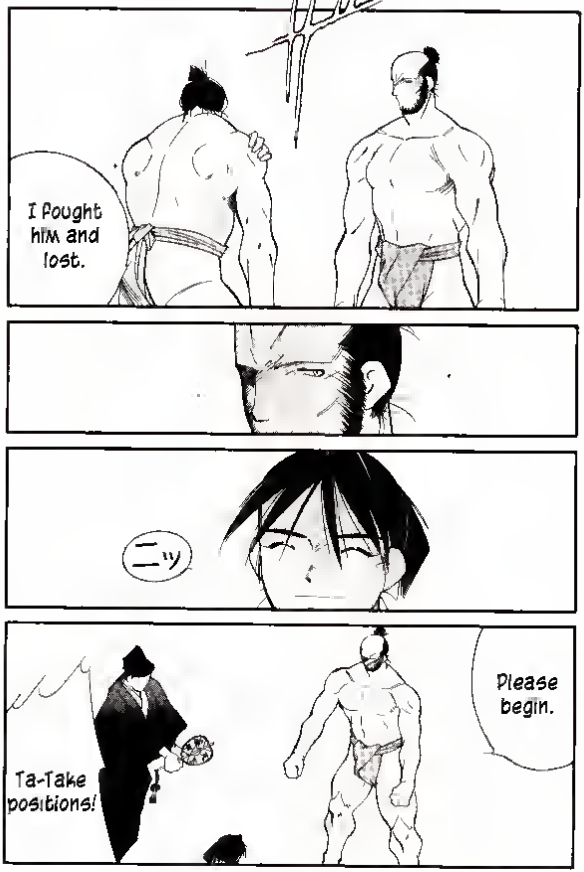
What?
He's light.
ザン
ギイッ
What!
My arm!

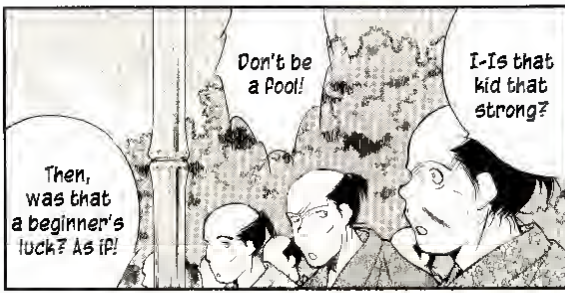

Gah!
He broke it.

Huh? What?
The one who threw wasn't Namazue?
Hey hey!
You two ....

It-It's over.
What?
Guh!

ヨロ
N-no.
You underestimated him. You let your guard down.
I did not underestimate him.
ピク
Once you fight him, you'll know.
I fought him seriously because of that.


I fought him and lost.
ニッ
Ta-Take positions!
Please begin.


Don't be a fool!
I-Is that kid that strong?
Then, was that a beginner's luck? As if!

There's something different about him.
ザワ
What is this?

But,
Like I would...
Lose!
Begin!
Taste
My Fist!
ギ

He dodged it.
What?

He kicked!
Just like Hoshikozo.
Is he stupid?
Didn't he see what happened last time?

ガク
His knees collapsed.
What!

This isn't over yet!
Ngu-aaah!
ゴッ
What!?

What was that?
Something happened just now.

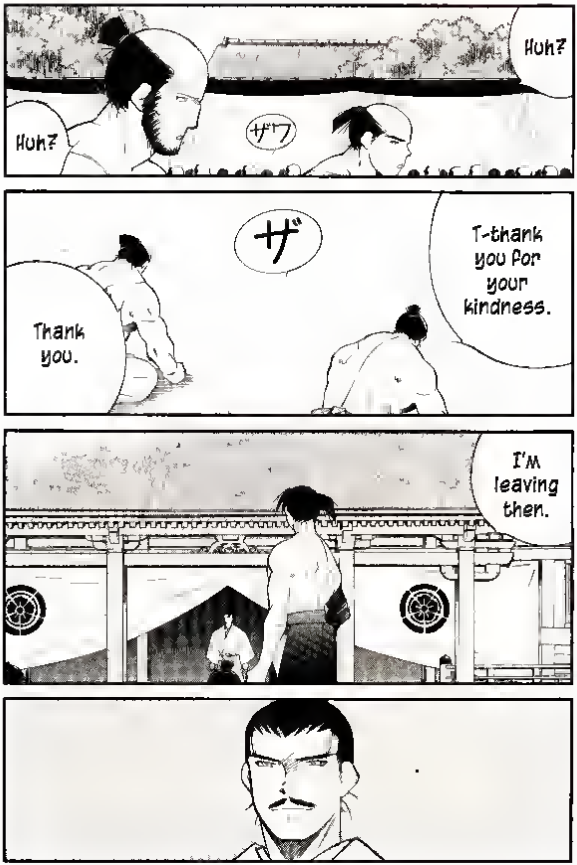
N-No, I didn't see it. Why Aoji fell down?
Did you see that?
But what a speed. Normal people cannot see it.
It was a kick.
You two,
Who are you?!

Heh-heh-heh!
My Lord?
Demon child indeed.
How is your father?

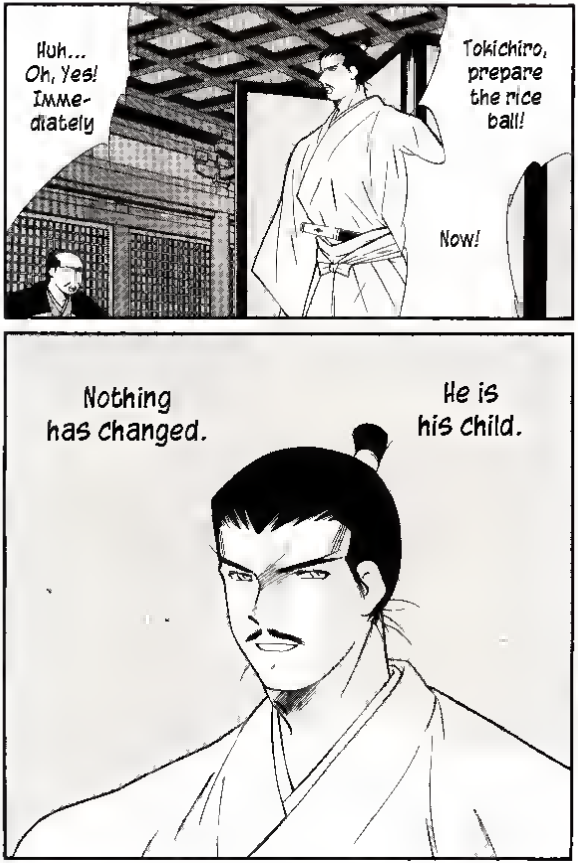
He's a grave-keeper.
A grave-keeper, eh?
Recently, no.
Are you in trouble?
I would actually meet you in this entertainment.
But, I never thought

ヨロ
Hmm... Huh?
and Nama-zue!
Aoji
ザ
What? Did I lost?
Yes! Forgive us for such embarassing performance.
I lost.
Yes.

There is nothing to be ashame of.
Your opponent was not a human. But a demon child.
A demon child?
What?
ニッ
I shall appoint the two of you
as Sumo Magis-trate.


Huh?
Huh?
ザワ
ザ
T-thank you for your kindness.
Thank you.
I'm leaving then.

I almost forgot.
Oh!
Make it for two!
About that rice ball.


Huh... Oh, Yes! Immediately
Tokichiro, prepare the rice ball!
Now!
Nothing has changed.
He is his child.

Demon children, eh?
Pro-bably.
Seems like you two
are stronger than myself.
Really?
Of course.
In sumo, that is.

But on battle-field...
スウ
Bang!

Not even demon children nor Nobunaga.
It's my win.
Nobunaga and demon children.
Well well. I saw something interesting.

What are your names?
That is Torahiko.
I'm Komahiko.
Surname?
We don't have one right now.

So you don't have one.
And you are?
I am
Me?
Sai-ka.
Mago-ichi

ザ
There will be time we meet again.
When that time comes, we might be enemies.

A crow, huh? But it has three legs.
Hey, look at that man's crest!
What's that?
Yata-garasu.
Ah!
A clan of mercenaries with three thousand guns.
He's the head of Saika Clan.
The Lord of Guns.
The Head of Magoichi is said to be the greatest gun master in the world.

MAGOICHI SAIKA
REAL SURNAME SUZUKI.
HE WAS KNOWN AS THE HEAD OF THE GREATEST GUN WIELDING GROUP IN JAPAN AT THE TIME NOT EVEN SHINGEN TAKEDA NOR KENSHIN UESUGI WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THIS MAN WOULD BE NOBUNAGA'S GREATEST ENEMIES.

第十二巻に続く

陸奥圓明流外伝

修羅の刻

作者あとがき

時代劇、と言うよりは歴史劇において主脇役問わず、取り上げられる頻度の最も多いキャラクターは、愛知県（尾張、三河）出身の三英傑であると云う。無論ここでは、越後の縮緬問屋のご隠居や暴れん坊の将軍様、名奉行の方々は脇においておく。史実云々よりも講談のヒーローといった度合いが高いからである。で、三英傑とは言うまでもなく、織田信長、豊臣秀吉、徳川家康の三人の事。某放送局の大河ドラマなどでは、数多い俳優さんがこれら三人を演じているはずである。それぞれの役者さんが脚本や演出の兼ね合いの中で、それぞれの三英傑を演じているのだけれど、そのイメージとしてあまり幅の無いのが信長であるように思えるのだ。秀吉などは、竹中直人がやれば竹中の…武田鉄矢がやれば武田鉄矢の秀吉、というように役者が前に出ている感が強い。これに比べ、誰がやっても信長は信長…ときに役者が役に負けている…と感じることはあっても、役者が前面に出きった信長というのはあまりお目にかかれない。良い信長役とは、役者が信長に近づけた場合であるような気がするのは僕だけではないはず（ひょっとして…

だけなのか？）。

つまるところ、これはやはり信長がキャラクターとして立っている度合いが他の二人よりも大きいから…というのが僕の見解なのですが、どうでしょう？

という訳で、今回は信長編（或いは戦国編）をお届けいたします。

織田信長…覇王、梟雄、魔王…等と称される彼の正体とは何だったのか？と、いった事には挑んでいません（実はちょっとだけ挑んでみたのですが…失敗だね、たぶん）。多くの役者がそうであったように、どれだけ信長に近づけたか？でしょう。キャラクターとして立っている…ということに加えて、信長が秀吉 家康は無論のこと、歴史上の人物中際立って目立つ点というのがある。それがあるために、信長は信長でしか在り得ない、などと思ったりしているのだ。

信長が際立っている点。それは有名なエピソードの多くが、どうも事実らしいと云う事。

『？なにを言っておるのだ？』と思った方がいるかも知れない。そういう方は驚くかもしれないのですが、水戸黄門は諸国漫遊などしてはいないし、遠山金四郎はお白州で桜吹雪を見せたりはしていないのですよ。まぁ、ここで『えっ、ほんと？』

などと本気で驚く方はあまりいないと思うのだけれど（例が極端でした）。実際、歴史上の人物についての事実、史実として信じられている中で面白いエピソードの殆どは後世の創作である事が多いのだ。

ところが、信長にとってのそれ……若いころのうつけぶりを象徴する身なりや父の葬儀での振る舞い、桶狭間出陣において敦盛をひとさし舞って後、僅かな供回りのみを引き連れての出撃など、普通に考えれば……やりすぎ、できすぎ、格好よすぎ……な、これら本作中に描いた、いかにも創られた感の強いエピソードはみな事実である。正確に言うと、その可能性が高い。何故かというと、それらが信長（公）記に載っているからなのだ。

僕自身も、それらのエピソードは怪しいのではないかなぁと感じていたのだけれど（だってねぇ……本当にできすぎ）、書いてあるんだもの、しょうがないよなぁ。信長のキャラの立ちっぷりに脱帽するしかない。

秀吉もキャラは結構立っているほうだけれど、それでも墨俣の一夜城など、面白いものは眉唾である。最近の書物等には載っている事もあるのだけれど、原典が分からないし、なにより信長記には載っていないのが説得力に欠ける。本当に一夜で城（に見えるもの）を築いたとなれば当然記載されていておかしくないと思うのだが：

：。また小田原城攻めの際にも一夜で（はりぼての）城を築き、太閤秀吉の力はこれほどのものか：：』と北条方の戦意を失わせ降伏せしめた、という明らかに後世の作だと思われる話もあり、秀吉の一夜城伝説は有名な分だけ虚構の色が濃い。ついでに言えば、家康などにはそういうエピソード自体があまり無い。だから天下取れたのか、家康？

ちなみに、信長記とは信長の家臣であった太田牛一という人が自分の日記等をもとに書き記したもの。同年代でかつその関係の近さからいって、信用度は高いと言えるのだ。

さて、もう一人：：雑賀孫一が信長とともに今回の刻の核を成す男なのだが、この紀伊雑賀衆の頭目は信長とはうって変わって謎に包まれた人物である。当時最先端の武器であった鉄砲（種子島）をいち早く導入し、それをもって戦国の時代を駆け抜けた：：ということ以外に知られていることが少ない。名前も孫一、孫市などともあり、その人物像は計りがたい。ちなみにその紋所「八咫烏」も有名ではあるが、孫一のものとしての紋は伝わっていない。紋自体としては古くからのものも無いことはないのだけれど、孫一のものとするには、今ひとつ：：。熊野（本宮）の神社や、

サッカー協会のものも後から作ったという事なので、僕もそれに倣いました（また、それらを知らずに古いものと間違って使用すると版権問題か派生する…とのこともあり）。

よってこの孫一は誰のでもなく、僕の孫一である。

そういう意味で対照的な二人と陸奥、彼らが織りなす戦国の物語……え～今回も多少長丁場になりますか、よろしければ次巻にもお付き合い願えれば……と思っています。

平成十二年　十月十日　川原正敏

陸奥圓明流外伝

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SHURA NO TOKI

VOLUME 11 CHAPTER 2

TRANSLATED BY: NANATEN

HAPPY (BELATED) VALENTINE'S DAY

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